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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : AD/ORE

DATE: 15 February 1950

FROM : Chief, D/In

SUBJECT: Suggested EPB procedures for dealing with extraordinary and critical international situations

1. It is submitted that appropriate procedures should be adopted constantly to keep before the EPB its particular responsibility to take extraordinary action as opposed to normal routine in the event of any indications of emerging threat of war or drastic shifts in the balance of world power.

2. It is believed that such procedure is required for the following reasons:

(a) The EPB, as the virtual senate of ORE, has a responsibility for dealing with such situations at its own level which it would not be safe to delegate to other bodies.

(b) The failure of a top level group such as the EPB to address itself to such a problem would afford just ground for criticism.

(c) Recognition of EPB responsibility in such extraordinary situations would provide a safeguard against surprise in addition to the normal functions of the separate divisions of ORE.

(d) It is necessary in an intelligence organization to take constant precautions against the tendency to rely on normal operations and to coast along on the basis of previous assumptions and estimates, however comfortable.

3. For these reasons, it is suggested that the item of "extraordinary and critical situations" be placed on the agenda of every EPB meeting as a constant reminder of the need of alertness. In most cases, the item would be passed over without action for there is no thought of reviving the old weekly presentation. However, where such a described situation seemed to be in the making to any member of the EPB, it should be dealt with. Whenever the EPB came to the conclusion that such a situation existed, it would through its members gather together evidence in the hands of each division and deal with the case substantively and initiate whatever extraordinary action might be called for such as studies, requirements to the field, etc.

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Chief, D/In

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